



June 2012



Kyrgyzstan Industry Training Symposium

"The most important symbol of business is the handshake because when there's a handshake, there's a deal," said U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Pamela Spratlen in her opening remarks at the Kyrgyzstan Industry Training Symposium.

The American Chamber of Commerce, Kyrgyz Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Embassy sponsored the training symposium April 24, as an opportunity to do business with contractors in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Throughout the symposium, the audience received briefings on

products that would be useful to the Transit Center and how to craft winning proposals.

During the past 10 years, local businesses have seen an increase in sales from Transit Center contracts. On a daily basis, 6,000 copies of Stars and Stripes are printed in Bishkek for distribution to the service members at the Transit Center; and every month, the Transit Center purchases \$200,000 worth of water from the local Coca-Cola plant.

Among the briefers was a representative for Department of Defense Logistics Agency, a \$41.8

billion global enterprise, whose mission statement is to provide the best value integrated logistics solutions to America's armed forces and other designated customers.

The DLA purchases 100 percent of fuels, food, construction materials, clothing and medical supplies from the local area.

Mira Zumvald, a local business woman who attended the symposium three years ago, felt that the event was helpful. In the three years since she attended, her business has grown and she sells her goods at the Transit Center

Bazaar two times a month.

Senior Airman Bryce Pagel, 376th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron services contracting officer, attended his first symposium. For a first time experience, he truly felt rewarded in knowing he was making an impact on the local Kyrgyz community.

"There is something special about knowing you're directly affecting someone's life," he said. "I find it incredibly rewarding to be able to affect not just the business relationship but that personal bond and the personal lives of people in the local community."

Cops for Kids celebrate one year adoption

Many Airmen are parents, aunts, or uncles, but they do not need to be related to a child to have their hearts touched.

Recently, members of the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron celebrated the first anniversary of adopting the Krasnaya Rechka (Red River) Village Orphanage. The celebration consisted of security forces defenders spending time with the Kyrgyz Republic children and providing a puppet show and cake to share with the kids.

In the year since its inception, "Cops for Kids" has paid for 14 operations: two heart surgeries, eight corrective eye procedures and four cleft-lip operations. In addition to the cost of the surgeries, Cops for Kids has also completed a number of refurbishments inside the orphanage and donated clothing.

"We visited this orphanage today to celebrate something special," said Maj.

Beverly Baker, 376 ESFS commander. "Even though it's only been a year of working together, we sincerely hope there are many more years and opportunities to come. This has been a rewarding experience for all of us; the children look at us like family as do we."

Baker said that in honor of this milestone, a flag crafted at the Transit Center was presented to Meerim Madiyarova, the Red River Orphanage director. The flag will be hung outside the orphanage to symbolize the relationship between the Transit Center and the children residing there.

The 376 ESFS became involved with the Red River Orphanage when Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Richardson arrived at the Transit Center. He learned about the Red River Orphanage through an interpreter and jumped at the opportunity to sponsor them. Since then, Cops for Kids has raised money through donations from

members within the squadron, as well as events held on the Transit Center, to provide for the children.



MABOS sponsors heart surgery for 17-year-old

On May 2, Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society donated \$1,015 to help pay for a patient's heart surgery at the National Cardiology and Therapy Center in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Bahtiyar Ashimali, the 17 year old boy who was the recipient of the funds was extremely thankful for the donation.

"I am grateful for your generosity. This means a lot to me and my family," he said.

"I cannot put into words how grateful I was to have the opportunity to give this gift on behalf of all the men and women who have given of their time and money to help MABOS," said Master Sgt. Brad Robbins, 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron first sergeant. "It is a tremendous blessing to be the one who gets to stand there and give

a gift of life to someone less fortunate than us. I am humbled by the experience and so proud of what MABOS does for the people who so graciously allow us to spend time in their country."

Robbins is deployed here from Mac Dill Air Force Base, Fla., and hopes to fund more surgeries in the future.

"I want to raise money for two more surgeries during my time here, making for a total of six for 2012," he said.

Each surgery costs approximately \$560. Patients apply for humanitarian assistance and are also recommended by the doctors at the heart ward to receive donations for surgery.

Bahtiyar's father, Ashimal Isaev, expressed his thanks.

"I am appreciative of your

generosity. This has helped our family more than you will ever know," he said. "It was much easier to come up with \$180 for the surgery than the \$1195 that was required for this particular surgery. Thank you."

The MABOS heart program was initiated in 2003 by James Carny, who lives in Bishkek and has a

passion for helping Kyrgyz children. Carney established a partnership with a local surgeon, Dr. Samidin Shabraliv, who along with his staff, agreed to perform the surgeries that MABOS helps sponsor with no additional doctor's fees. He has performed 172 surgeries to date on children throughout his tenure.





Night Wing rocks Bishkek Museum Night event

A group of seven U.S. Air Forces Central Band members, performed on the Kyrgyz State Museum of History stairs in front of an audience of more than 2,000 people in downtown Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 16.

"Night Wing," the current AFCENT Band assigned to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, is touring Kyrgyzstan for 10 days. The performance on Wednesday was held in Ala Too Square as part of the "Museum Night" event to celebrate May 18th -- International Museum Day.

"Thank you so much for joining our event and helping us have a very successful museum night," said Ms. Anarkul Isiralieva, the director of the Kyrgyz State Museum of History, as she

spoke with the band after the concert.

When Night Wing began setting up for the concert on the museum steps, the sky looked ominous with dark blue rain clouds. As U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Pamela Spratlen arrived under an umbrella, the rain began to fall and the band got nervous.

"Me personally, I was saying some last minute prayers," said Airman 1st Class Lee Heerspink, Night Wing vocalist and guitar player. "I was afraid they were going to announce us and we were going to have to just run out there and put the tarp over everything."

As the band took the stage the rain continued to fall at a steady rate, but the sun came out.

Before traveling to

Kyrgyzstan, Night Wing had performed in many locations throughout the Central Command area of responsibility for various groups of people.

"Sometimes you'll see certain age groups respond to different songs, but there was a universal love of music here," Rager said. "That was what drew me in and made me want to interact with them. They were all singing along and were all interested in what we were doing."

Aiperi and her husband Talant helped their 14-month-old son Bakai clap his hands to the music.

"We were here last year seeing an Air Force Band when Bakai was only 6-months-old," Aiperi said. "He was so tiny then!"

The crowd was

encouraged to play cow bells, dance and even sing with the band.

"This was the first dance circle that I've seen with this group," said Airman 1st Class Dave Wilson, sound engineer for Night Wing. "It made it wicked-hard for me to mix, but everyone enjoyed [the show]."

Aliman Temirbek, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing media relations specialist, was invited to sing the Adele song "Someone Like You" with Melissa Rager.

"It was very exciting to perform with a live band and I think it was a great example of U.S. and Kyrgyz partnership," Temirbek said. "We sang in English together and conveyed the same emotions in the song, and felt united for as long as the song lasted."



Night Wing travels to Talas

"Night Wing" traveled to Talas, Kyrgyzstan, May 17 to 18 for a first-time performance at the Talas Central Square. The concert was a chance build relationships with Kyrgyz Republic citizens.

Night Wing is the current U.S. Air Forces Central Band assigned to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The band is currently on a tour throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The band traveled four hours by bus through the mountains to reach a location that not many Americans get the privilege to visit. The weather in the mountains was cold and windy, but the band pushed on so they wouldn't let their new fans down.

Chinara Kuzebaeva, a six-year-old student at Sunny #3 Kindergarten School, was really excited for the band performance.

"I enjoyed dancing to all the songs," she said.

Ainazik Ahmatbeloova, also a six-year-old student at Sunny #3 Kindergarten School, had fun dancing with her friend on the stage.

"I was excited to dance with the singer and my friend on stage," she said. "I also liked dancing to the songs in the crowd."

The band performed a variety of popular cover songs for the audience encouraging them to dance and sing along.

"At first, [the crowd] seemed a little unsure," said Airman 1st Class Melissa Rager, Night Wing vocalist. "Once we started performing

more songs and passed out the cow bells, the audience really got into the performance."

Kymbat Nurbekova, an 18-year-old student at the Talas Medical College, had fun playing the cow bells with her friends.

"When the band told us they needed help playing the cow bells, I ran up and grabbed one," she said. "My friends joined me and we had a lot of fun."

This was Kymbat's first American concert.

"I've never been to a concert with American singers before," she said. "I always hear American songs on the radio and when I learned there was an American band performing them, I was excited to come to the show."

While in Talas, the band

was invited to attend an American Corner meeting to talk about their hobbies and give the students a chance to ask them questions in English.

During the visit at American Corner, the two vocalists played an acoustic song for the more than 30 students in attendance. After their performance, one of the students performed a traditional Kyrgyz song.

American Corner is a U.S. Embassy led program that provides Kyrgyz students and Americans the chance to interact and learn about each other's cultures.

This is the first deployment for the band, who is comprised of seven members. The group, who is from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., has been together for eight months.

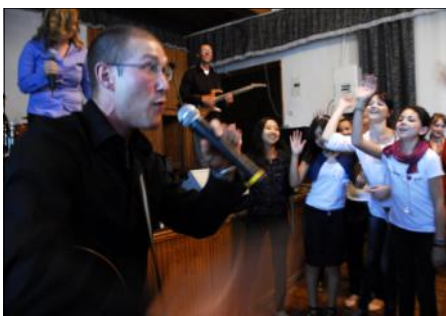
Night Wing Performs for School #29



Airman 1st Class Melissa Rager, "Night Wing" vocalist, plays the tambourine during a performance at School #29 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 15, 2012.



Students from School #29 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, play cow bells during a "Night Wing" performance May 15, 2012.



Airman 1st Class Lee Heerspink, "Night Wing" guitarist and vocalist, raps to the audience during a performance at School #29 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 15, 2012. Night Wing is visiting Kyrgyzstan as part of their tour throughout the area of responsibility.

Night Wing, the current U.S. Air Forces Central Band currently assigned to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, visited Kyrgyzstan for 10 days as part of their tour throughout the area of responsibility. The band is deployed from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. (U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Lynsie Nichols)



Students from School #29 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, raise their hands and dance to a song during a U.S. Air Forces Central Band "Night Wing" concert May 15, 2012.

Transit Center Economic Impact as of May 12, 2012

Direct Expenditures	FY09 Actual	FY10 Actual	FY11 Actual	FY12 YTD
Payments to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$26,620,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$30,000,000
Payments to Manas International Airport	\$22,999,039			
Lease, Passes, Utilities		\$4,029,091	\$7,817,140	\$4,397,822
Aircraft Landing, Parking, Service Fees		\$21,157,571	\$19,460,590	\$13,455,615
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$30,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$19,218,967
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$60,505
Contract Payments (Furniture, Sports Equipment, Parts, Supplies, Buildings, Renovations, Road Repairs, Grounds Maintenance, Refuse, Custodial, Vehicle Leases)	\$24,601,908	\$42,790,517	\$30,916,871	\$23,520,891
Leases (non-MIA)	\$81,562	\$66,596	\$120,698	\$88,122
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance	\$1,700,000	\$2,273,488	\$823,634	\$687,255
Subtotal Direct Expenditures	\$106,602,509	\$130,317,263	\$149,138,933	\$91,429,177
Indirect Expenditures				
Estimated U.S. military local spending	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$1,201,048
Subtotal Indirect Expenditures	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$1,201,048
Total Economic Impact	\$107,640,039	\$131,479,006	\$150,566,329	\$92,630,225
Aviation Fuel Payments to Gazpromneft-Aero Kyrgyzstan				\$117,725,276

TCM, Kyrgyz Republic dedicate Chui Tuberculosis Clinic

A dedication event sponsored by the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, was held at the Chui Tuberculosis Clinic May 18, 2012. The ceremony brought many individuals from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health, U.S. Embassy, U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Transit Center together to view the commodities provided for the clinic.

Col. James Jacobson, Transit Center director, along with a number of distinguished guests had the honor to cut a ribbon, symbolizing the successful partnership of the Transit Center and Kyrgyz MOH to support the Chui TB Clinic.

The donated supplies consisted of new bed frames, mattresses, bedding, cooking and laundry equipment. The U.S. Government funded this purchase with Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid, or OHDACA funds. The total investment was \$39,697.

The clinic, which accommodates 700 patients annually, has a maximum capacity for 130 patients and has 120 onsite staff including nurses, administrators, security guards and groundskeepers.

"We are grateful for the Transit Center," said Kubanich Sultanov, a specialist on tuberculosis with the Kyrgyz MOH. "They

understand the situation of living conditions is not good and they were able to come in and help us out."

Sultanov added that the Transit Center also plans to assist opening a boarding house in Tokmok, a village

in Chui oblast or region.

"We're glad we were able to host a celebratory event here at the clinic," said Capt. Holly Gebert, Transit Center Theatre Security Cooperation division medical director.

